

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MPEG CHROMA DE-INTERLACING**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit of United States Provisional Application No.
5 60/257,723 which was filed December 22, 2000 and 60/259,531 which was filed
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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**Technical Field**

10 The present invention relates to the processing of video signals, and more
particularly, to the conversion of interlaced video formats into progressive video formats
known as deinterlacing.

Description of the Related Art

15 Presently, many of the transmitted and broadcast TV signals are interlaced.
Many of these signals are transmitted in Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG)
form. For example, the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) has
developed the standard for digital television wherein the signals, referred to as ATSC
signals, are transmitted in MPEG form. Some of the ATSC formats are interlaced,
20 for example 480i and 1080i video signals. These MPEG signals are in the so-called
4:2:0 format. Accordingly, the MPEG signals contain chroma, the difference signal
portion of the video signal, of half-spatial resolution in both horizontal and vertical
directions. In order to display this chroma with the associated luma, the matrixed
red, green, and blue portion of the video signal, the chroma must be converted back
25 to 4:4:4 form.

Most MPEG decoders output the chroma component after it has been
formatted to match the interlaced luma output. Typically, such MPEG decoders will
convert the interlaced 4:2:0 chroma into interlaced 4:2:2 chroma. If the resulting
chroma and luma are to be deinterlaced and possibly converted to a different
30 number of lines, the chroma vertical resolution will be degraded if the usual chroma
output of the decoder is deinterlaced.

Many new displays, such as plasma, LCD, LCOS, and other "matrix" type

displays, are being developed which are inherently progressive, or non-interlaced. Accordingly, in addition to decoding, converting the video signal to 4:2:2 format, and then deinterlacing the video signal, to properly display a video signal on many inherently progressive displays, the video signal must undergo further vertical format conversion. This can result in further degradation of the chroma vertical resolution. For example, in the case where a 1080i signal is to be displayed on a 720p display, most MPEG decoders will convert the 270 lines per field of 4:2:0 chroma to 540 lines per field by vertical interpolation. Typically, both the chroma and luma components of the signal would be deinterlaced producing a 1080p signal. This sequence degrades the vertical resolution. Moreover, the down-conversion of the luma from 1080 to 720 lines, and up-conversion of the chroma from 540 to 720 lines, can further degrade the vertical resolution. The present invention is directed towards reducing this degradation.

Summary of the Invention

The invention disclosed herein provides a method and system for deinterlacing and vertically format converting an interlaced Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) video signal. In accordance with the inventive arrangements disclosed herein, the interlaced video signal is deinterlaced prior to vertically expanding the chroma component of the interlaced video signal to retain a high degree of vertical resolution for the chroma component.

One aspect of the present invention can include a method of converting interlaced video signals to progressive video signals. The method can include receiving an interlaced video signal representing a luma component specifying luma lines and a chroma component specifying chroma lines. The chroma component can specify approximately one-half the number of lines of the luma component. The interlaced video signal can be decoded and the number of chroma lines can be increased to approximately the same as the number of the luma lines. The number of chroma lines of the interlaced video signal can be decreased back to approximately one-half of the number of the luma lines, thereby substantially reversing the step of increasing the chroma lines. The interlaced video signal then can be deinterlaced. Accordingly, the deinterlacing can result in a progressive video

signal representing a luma component specifying luma lines and a chroma component specifying chroma lines. The progressive video signal can be processed further as necessary.

Another embodiment of the invention can include a method of converting
5 interlaced MPEG video signals to progressive video signals including receiving an interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal. The interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal can be decoded and converted to an interlaced 4:2:2 formatted video signal. The interlaced 4:2:2 formatted video signal can be re-converted to an interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal, which then can be deinterlaced resulting in a 4:2:0 formatted
10 progressive video signal. The 4:2:0 formatted progressive video signal can be processed further as may be necessary.

Another aspect of the invention can include a method of converting interlaced video signals to progressive video signals including receiving an interlaced video
15 signal representing a luma component specifying luma lines and a chroma component specifying non-interpolated chroma lines. The interlaced video signal can be decoded. The non-interpolated chroma lines can be interpolated to produce a processed chroma component specifying interpolated and the non-interpolated chroma lines. The decoded interlaced video signal can be deinterlaced based on the luma lines and the non-interpolated chroma lines. The deinterlacing results in a
20 progressive video signal representing a luma component specifying luma lines and a chroma component specifying chroma lines. As mentioned, the video signal can be processed further as necessary.

Another aspect of the invention can include an MPEG decoder including a chroma vertical interpolator configured to receive an interlaced video signal
25 representing a luma component specifying luma lines and a chroma component specifying non-interpolated chroma lines. The MPEG decoder can be configured to decode the interlaced video signal and interpolate the non-interpolated chroma lines to produce a processed chroma component specifying interpolated and the non-interpolated chroma lines. Notably, the processed chroma component can specify
30 alternate interpolated chroma and the non-interpolated chroma, such that the processed chroma component can include all of the non-interpolated chroma lines.

Another aspect of the invention can include a system for converting interlaced MPEG video signals to progressive video signals. The system can include a decoder configured to receive an interlaced video signal representing a luma component specifying luma lines and a chroma component specifying chroma lines.

5 The chroma component can specify approximately one-half the number of lines of the luma component. The decoder can be configured to decode the interlaced video signal and increase the number of the chroma lines to approximately the same as the number of the luma lines. The system also can include a deinterlacer configured to first decrease the number of the chroma lines of the interlaced video signal back
10 to approximately one-half of the number of the luma lines, substantially reversing the increasing step. The deinterlacer then can be configured to deinterlace the interlaced video signal. A processor can be included which can be configured to coordinate the decoder and the deinterlacer.

Another embodiment of the invention can include a system including a
15 decoder configured to receive an interlaced video signal representing a luma component specifying luma lines and a chroma component specifying non-interpolated chroma lines. Notably, the decoder can be configured to decode the interlaced video signal and interpolate the non-interpolated chroma lines to produce a processed chroma component specifying interpolated and the non-interpolated
20 chroma lines. In that case, a deinterlacer can be included which is configured to deinterlace the decoded interlaced video signal based on the luma lines and the non-interpolated chroma lines. Still, a processor can be included. The processor can be configured to coordinate the decoder and the deinterlacer.

Brief Description of the Drawings

25 There are shown in the drawings embodiments which are presently preferred, it being understood, however, that the invention is not so limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating an exemplary system for
30 converting interlaced video formats to progressive video formats in accordance with the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

Figure 2 is a spatial vertical diagram depicting 4:2:0 chroma lines produced in the decoder, relative to the decoded luma lines.

Figure 3 is a flow chart illustrating an exemplary method of MPEG chroma deinterlacing in accordance with the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

5 Figure 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating another exemplary system for converting interlaced video formats to progressive video formats in accordance with the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

Figure 5 is a flow chart illustrating another exemplary method of MPEG chroma deinterlacing in accordance with the inventive arrangements disclosed
10 herein.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The invention disclosed herein provides a method and system for deinterlacing and vertically format converting an interlaced Moving Picture Experts
15 Group (MPEG) video signal. In accordance with the inventive arrangements disclosed herein, the interlaced video signal is deinterlaced prior to vertically expanding the chroma component of the interlaced video signal. Accordingly, the invention retains a high degree of vertical resolution for the chroma component (which is, at most, 50% of the luma vertical resolution) when performing deinterlacing
20 and chroma vertical format conversions.

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating an exemplary system 100 for converting interlaced video formats to progressive video formats. As shown in Figure 1, the system 100 can include an MPEG 2 video decoder module (decoder) 110, an interlace to progressive video processing system (deinterlacer) 120, and a
25 processor 105. The decoder 110 can decode and convert a received, interlaced 4:2:0 formatted MPEG video signal to an interlaced 4:2:2 formatted video signal. Notably, the deinterlacer 120 can be configured to convert a 4:2:2 formatted video signal to a 4:2:0 formatted video signal prior to deinterlacing the video signal. After performing the conversion, the deinterlacer 120 can convert the reformatted video
30 signal to a progressive video signal. The processor 105 can coordinate the actions of the decoder 110 and the deinterlacer 120. Each of the aforementioned components can be communicatively linked through an appropriate data connection,

for example a data communications bus or other connection circuitry. Finally, the system can include an imaging system or display device 130 such as a high definition television (HDTV) receiver having a liquid crystal on silicon (LCOS) display or other suitable progressive imager.

5 The system 100 can receive an interlaced MPEG video signal and convert it to a progressive video signal having a high degree of chroma vertical resolution. In operation, the decoder 110 can receive an interlaced MPEG 4:2:0 formatted video signal. The decoder 110 can decode the interlaced MPEG signal and convert the signal to an interlaced 4:2:2 formatted signal. In accordance with the present
10 invention, the deinterlacer converts the 4:2:2 interlaced signal back to an interlaced 4:2:0 formatted signal, thereby reversing the 4:2:0 to 4:2:2 conversion step done by the decoder 110. Afterwards, the deinterlacer 120 proceeds to process the interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal in the optimum order. Specifically, the deinterlacer 120 first deinterlaces the interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal and
15 then converts the resulting progressive 4:2:0 formatted video signal into a progressive 4:2:2 formatted video signal. That is, the number of lines of the chroma component can be expanded to be equal to the number of lines of the luma component of the resulting progressive video signal. The video signal can be processed further as necessary depending upon the vertical resolution of the display
20 to which the video signal is to be provided.

 The chroma line number expansion, or conversion of the deinterlaced 4:2:0 video signal to a 4:2:2 formatted video signal, can be illustrated in the case where a 4:2:0 formatted 1080p signal is to be displayed on a 720p display. Assuming the video signal has been deinterlaced as described above, the chroma lines can be up-
25 converted from 270 to 540. The video signal can be processed further using a variety of techniques. In one embodiment, the luma lines can be down-converted from 1080 to 720, and the chroma lines can be up-converted from 540 to 720. Alternatively, rather than up-converting the chroma lines from 540 to 720, the chroma lines first can be up-converted from 540 to 1080 lines. According to this
30 embodiment, the luma then can be down-converted from 1080 to 720, and the chroma also can be down-converted from 1080 to 720. Although a 720p display was used for purposes of illustration, any of a variety of display devices having disparate

5 With reference to the system of Figure 1, and as illustrated in Figure 2, when a conventional MPEG decoder processes the received MPEG signal for interlaced output, the luma is output as is, but the chroma is up-converted to the same number of lines as the luma, and with the same vertical position. In other words, the received MPEG 4:2:0 interlaced signal is decoded and converted into a 4:2:2 interlaced signal. One exemplary process that is utilized by the decoder to create chroma for lines 3 and 5 of luma, may be to utilize lines A and C to derive Cr3 and Cr5. For example, the MPEG decoder may set:

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In a similar fashion, the MPEG decoder, for the bottom field, could derive Cr4 and Cr6 from lines B and D by setting:

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$$A = (1/4)(7 \cdot Cr_3 - 3 \cdot Cr_5) \qquad C = (1/4)(5 \cdot Cr_5 - Cr_3)$$

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$$B = (1/4)(5 \cdot Cr_4 - Cr_6) \qquad D = (1/4)(7 \cdot Cr_6 - 3 \cdot Cr_4)$$

Of course, it should be noted that just as A can be calculated from Cr3 and Cr5, so C can be calculated from Cr7 and Cr9 (not shown). This means that one calculation can be implemented and used for all chroma lines of one field. There are many ways these equations can be implemented, and if different equations were used by the decoder in its 4:2:2 conversions, the equations could be reversed for 4:2:2 to 4:2:0 conversions.

Figure 3 is a flow chart 300 illustrating an exemplary method of MPEG chroma deinterlacing as performed by the inventive arrangements of Figure 1. The method can begin in step 310 where an interlaced MPEG video signal is received. The video signal can be a 4:2:0 formatted video signal. Specifically, the number of chroma lines of the chroma component of the video signal can be approximately one-half the number of luma lines of the luma component of the video signal. In step 320, the interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal can be decoded and converted to an interlaced 4:2:2 formatted video signal. That is, typically, a decoder will not only decode the received video signal, but also increase, or up-convert, the number of chroma lines of the chroma component to substantially match that of the luma component.

In step 330, the resulting interlaced 4:2:2 formatted video signal can be provided to the deinterlacer. In step 340, the interlaced video signal can be converted back to an interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal. Notably, as described in Figure 2, the deinterlacer can down-convert the chroma, or effectively reverse the chroma processing of the decoder. Accordingly, the number of chroma lines can be reduced to approximately one-half the number of luma lines. In step 350, the interlaced 4:2:0 formatted video signal then can be deinterlaced. In step 360, having avoided the degradation of the vertical resolution, the resulting progressive video signal can be processed further as necessary. For example, the resulting progressive video signal can be converted to a 4:2:2 formatted video signal or a 4:4:4 video signal. The signal can be vertically format converted as previously described based upon the vertical resolution of the display being used. Finally, in step 370, after any necessary processing, the video signal can be provided to a display device for viewing. After completion of step 370, the method can repeat as necessary to process further video signals.

Figure 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating another exemplary system 400 for converting interlaced video formats to progressive video formats. System 400 is substantially similar to the system of Figure 1, in that the system 400 can include a decoder 410, a deinterlacer 420, a processor 405, and a display device 430.

- 5 Notably, however, the decoder 410 can include a modified MPEG decoder chroma vertical interpolator 415. In accordance with this inventive arrangement, the decoder can output a video signal wherein some of the chroma output lines are not interpolated and all of the original 4:2:0 chroma lines can be present at the output at selected times in the output signal as non-interpolated lines. In that case, the
- 10 deinterlacer 420 need not be configured to reduce the number of chroma lines to be substantially equal to the number of luma lines (convert the 4:2:2 formatted signal back to a 4:2:0 formatted video signal). Rather than reconverting the video signal, in one embodiment of the present invention, every-other line of decoder output chroma can be an original 4:2:0 chroma line, wherein the in-between lines can be
- 15 interpolated lines. Accordingly, the deinterlacer 420 can be configured to ignore the interpolated chroma lines and keep the original chroma lines. In this manner, the maximum chroma vertical resolution on still (non-moving) pictures can be retained in the deinterlaced output.

- Figure 5 is a flow chart 500 illustrating an exemplary method of MPEG
- 20 chroma deinterlacing as performed by the inventive arrangements of Figure 4. The method can begin in step 510 where an interlaced MPEG video signal is received. The video signal can be a 4:2:0 formatted video signal wherein the number of chroma lines of the chroma component is approximately one-half the number of luma lines of the luma component of the video signal. In step 520, the interlaced video
- 25 signal can be decoded. The number of chroma lines can be increased through interpolation. This process, called up-converting the chroma, results in the video signal having approximately the same number of chroma lines as luma lines, for example an interlaced 4:2:2 formatted video signal. Notably, the resulting video signal can include original, or non-interpolated chroma lines. In one embodiment of
- 30 the present invention, all of the original 4:2:0 chroma lines can be present at the output at selected times in the output signal as non-interpolated lines. For example,

every-other line of decoder output chroma can be an original one of the non-interpolated chroma lines, wherein the in-between lines can be interpolated lines.

In step 530, the video signal can be deinterlaced. Notably, however, the interpolated chroma lines can be discarded or ignored during this process.

5 Accordingly, only the non-interpolated chroma lines need be processed in addition to the luma lines. In step 540, having avoided the degradation of the vertical resolution, the deinterlaced video signal can be processed further as previously mentioned. For example, the progressive video signal can be converted to a 4:2:2 or a 4:4:4 formatted video signal. Additionally, the signal can be vertically format converted
10 based upon the particular display used for displaying the video signal. Finally, in step 550, the resulting video signal can be provided to an imaging system or display device. Still, the method can repeat as necessary to process further video signals.

The invention disclosed herein can be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof. Accordingly,
15 reference should be made to the following claims, rather than to the foregoing specification, as indicating the scope of the invention.